

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action dated May 1, 2008. Claims 7 and 14-17 remain in this application. Claims 7, 14, 16 and 17 are the independent Claims. Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 18-24 have been canceled without prejudice. It is believed that no new matter is involved in the amendments or arguments presented herein.

Reconsideration and entrance of the amendment in the application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 9 of the Office Action, Claims 7 and 14-17 were indicated to be allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner and formally recognizes the allowed Claims 7 and 14-17.

Non-Art Based Rejections

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement.

In response, Claim 4 has been canceled, rendering the rejection moot.

Art-Based Rejections

Claims 1, 4, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Japanese Publication No. JP 11-200561 (Yoshitaka) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,525,264 (Ouchida) and U.S. Patent No. 5,505,788 (Dinwoodie); Claim 23 was rejected as obvious over Yoshitaka in view of Ouchida, Dinwoodie and European Patent Application No. EP 1071139 A2 (Nakazima); Claim 24 was rejected as obvious over Yoshitaka in view of Ouchida, Dinwoodie and Japanese Application Publication No. JP 2000-174313 (Masahiro).

In response, Claims 1, 4, and 21-24 are canceled, rendering the rejections moot.

Appl. No. 10/774,326
Amdt. Dated August 1, 2008
Reply to Office Action of May 1, 2008

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Conclusion

Applicant believes the foregoing amendments comply with requirements of form and thus may be admitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b). Alternatively, if these amendments are deemed to touch the merits, admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(c). In this connection, these amendments were not earlier presented because they are in response to the matters pointed out for the first time in the Final Office Action.

Lastly, admission is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) as presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

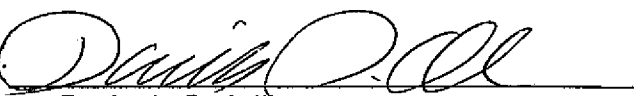
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4721 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: August 1, 2008

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